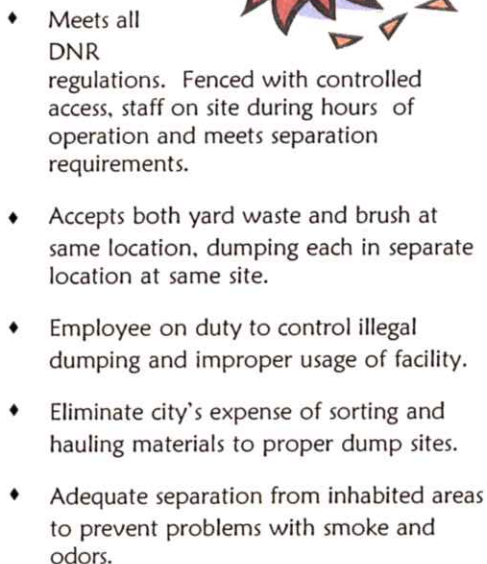


## Disposing of Brush & Yard Waste

## What does opening this new site achieve?



The address of the new compost site is 3973 20th Street, Grinnell, IA. It is immediately south of the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant. Citizens can either go to the intersection of Highway 146 and Pinder Avenue and then go west on the gravel road (400th Avenue) that corresponds to Pinder Avenue then north on 20th Street or they can go to the intersection of Sixth Avenue and Ferguson Road, then south to First Avenue, turn west onto First Avenue to 20th Street, then south on 20th Street approximately one mile.



## New Brush & Compost Facility

City of Grinnell  
927 Fourth Avenue  
Grinnell, IA 50112



## **The brush dump on Penrose has been there forever. Why do you want to close it?**

The Penrose brush disposal site does not have the room to handle the volume of materials brought to the site under current DNR rules and regulations. Too many citizens have dumped items other than yard waste illegally at the unsupervised Penrose site. As Grinnell has grown and residential areas have developed northeast of Penrose, smoke from burning and odors have become issues of concern, prompting complaints to the DNR.

DNR regulations require the following for brush disposal sites:

Site must be at least ¼ mile from the nearest inhabited building. The Penrose site no longer meets this requirement.

Site must be fenced in with controlled access.

Burning must be conducted on a regularly scheduled basis and be supervised at all times.

## **I think the compost drop-off site at the street department is convenient. Why do you want to close it?**

The compost collection site at the Public Service Building was opened for the convenience of citizens to receive yard waste to be hauled outside the city for composting, but it has also been used improperly by citizens for the dumping of brush, household trash, furniture, and even appliances. Grinnell's citizens spend thousands of dollars each year to pay city employees to separate these illegally dumped items. In warmer months, neighbors are bothered by the odor of decomposition of the yard waste. In addition, the current site is too small, is unsupervised (leading to the illegal dumping), and will always require payment of the ongoing cost of double handling.

## **Brush has always been burned at the brush dump. What is suddenly wrong with burning?**

Burning of yard waste by the city and by individual citizens brings an increasing number of complaints each year. Not only do most people dislike smoke, the health of many citizens is negatively affected by it. The city council has been asked for many years to consider halting of city burning and also the banning of burning by individual citizens. The biggest problem with banning burning by the city is the sheer volume of brush and yard waste. The new site will provide enough room for proper drying of brush prior to burning, which will help to alleviate the smoke problem. The larger waste storage area will also allow the city to do other things to minimize adverse effects, such as selection of appropriate weather conditions for burning.

## **So, what is the city going to do about this?**

The city council recognizes that both the Penrose site and the street department collection site are unsupervised, inadequate, and too close to residential areas. The council has decided to close both sites and to open a new, accessible, spacious, and supervised site just southwest of town. This site is removed from developed areas and will handle both brush and yard waste efficiently. Citizens can bring both to the same location for a nominal fee. Thus complying with DNR regulations.

## **I've never had to pay to get rid of my yard waste. Why are you charging me for use of this new site when I have to drive farther to get there?**

To date there has been about \$232,000 spent to build this site. That cost has been covered by all

citizens of Grinnell through solid waste fees and property taxes. The yearly cost to operate this facility is estimated at about \$57,000. As with other charges for waste disposal in Grinnell, this fee structure uses a "pay as you throw" logic, placing the cost of operation on those who use that service. Fees are based on the quantities brought to the site. If the city were to simply raise the base rate fee for solid waste collection to cover this cost, every customer in the city would pay \$2 more per month to cover the ongoing cost of operation when only some citizens use the facility.

## **When will this new site be open and how much will it cost?**

The hours of operation have not yet been set, but the council plans to have the site open each weekend and several evenings during the week. The charges for use of this facility have been established by the city council:

33 gallon plastic garbage bag:	\$ 0.50 per bag
One full car load or enclosed SUV:	\$ 3.00 per entry
One full pickup size load:	\$ 7.00 per entry
One full pickup size load with trailer:	\$15.00 per entry
One full dump truck size load:	\$25.00 per entry
One full dump truck size load w/ trailer:	\$35.00 per entry
*Any vehicle larger than those described:	\$50.00 per entry

\*These vehicles may require additional permitting.



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